

S-314
Dr. Sterling's Office
Crisfield
private

c.1870

Dr. Sterling's medical practice is housed in a squarish, two-story nineteenth-century dwelling distinguished by an undulating bracketed eave and a fanciful front porch. Unlike other porches in Crisfield, the standard corner and eave brackets are accompanied by rectangular eave panels incised with trailing tendril motifs. The east end of the house is marked by two bay windows also trimmed with brackets. Along with all the Victorian detail, the front door is framed by a classically inspired door surround with pilasters and a simple entablature.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-314

Magi No. 2003145504

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Dr. Sterling's Office

2. Location

street & number North Side of West Main Street not for publicationcity, town Crisfield vicinity of congressional district Firststate Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> museum
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> entertainment
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> industrial
			<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name J.A. Sterling, M.D.street & number telephone no.: city, town Crisfield state and zip code Maryland 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title date federal state county local depository for survey records city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-314

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Dr. Sterling's Office Description

Dr. Sterling's office stands on the north side of West Main Street in the center of "uptown" Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The Victorian center hall double-pile frame house faces south.

The c. 1870-1880 two-story, three-bay frame house is supported by a stuccoed brick foundation and is sheathed with aluminum siding. The hip roof with gables projecting from each side is covered with asphalt shingles. Twin interior chimneys rise from the house to flank the center hall. A two-story service wing with later additions extends to the rear.

The south (main) facade is a symmetrical elevation with a center door and flanking two over two window sash. The six-panel front door is framed by classically inspired pilasters and a simple entablature which is topped by a Victorian period bracketed cornice. The three bays are covered by a flat-roofed chamfered post porch embellished with elaborate corner brackets and eave decoration. The Victorian panels that mark each bay are finished with an incised floral pattern. The second floor has a paired single-pane sash in the center bay and flanking two over two sash windows, whereas the attic gable is pierced by an arched two over two sash. The undulating eave of the house is decorated with sawn brackets.

The west end of the main block is two bays deep with a paired two over two sash in the southwest bay and single two over two sash windows in the remaining bays. The attic gable is pierced by a round arched two over two sash window.

On the other end, the first floor has two bay windows. The front or south bay has a three-sided bay window with two over two sash and a bracketed and modillioned cornice. The rear or north bay window is larger with five sides. A paired two over two sash window lights the east side, while the adjacent sides are filled with single two over two sash windows. The second floor is pierced by single two over two sash windows, and the attic is lighted by a round arched two over two sash.

The two-story service wing is slightly shorter in height than the front block and has been extended in several ways. An internal brick chimney rises from the center of the wing.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-314

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

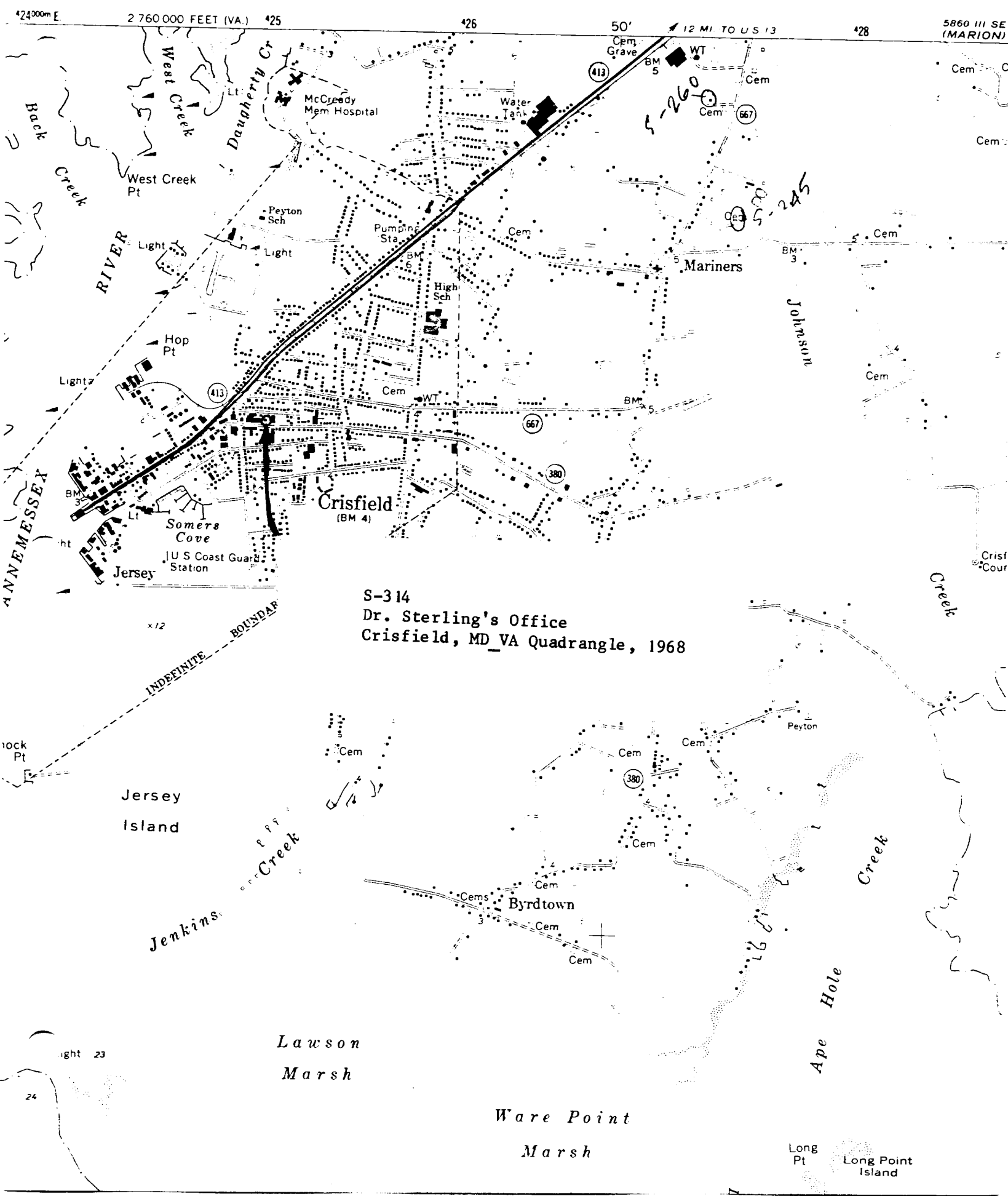
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Sterling's Office is one of the most distinctive pre-1928 houses to remain standing in "uptown" Crisfield. The bracketed eaves and decorated porch as well as the bracketed bay windows on the east side are unusual features for Crisfield houses. Most of the houses of this vintage were burned in the several Crisfield fires, or they have been torn down to be replaced by commercial buildings. The conversion of this house to a doctor's office has undoubtedly saved it from being demolished.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





Dr. Sterling's Office

S-314

Crisfield, Somerset County

South Elevation

7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart

Neg/Maryland Historical Trust



S-314

Dr. Sterling's Office

Crisfield, Somerset County, MD

Southeast elevation

6/85, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



Dr. Sterling's Office
Crisfield, Somerset County
East End

S-314

7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Maryland Historical Trust